Limited who are the only consumer of pellets at present is reported to have been around 6 lakh tonnes during 1991-92.

(b) There have been no reports of shortage of pellets for the sponge iron industry.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

Export of Iron Ore Pellets to Australia

1921. SHRI SUNIL BASU RAY : Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are exporting iron ore pellets to Australia in exchange for import of coking coal; and

(b) if so, whether such export has an adverse effcet on the production of steel in the country ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SANTOSH MOHAN DEV) : (a) Steel Authority of India is importing coking coal from Australia. One of the conditions of the contract is that the supplier of coal would buy iron ore pellets/concentrate from India of a certain percentage by value of coal supply to SAIL. Under this arrangement KIOCL is supplying pellets and concentrate to Australia.

(b) Iron ore pellets are not used by integrated Steel Plants in the country. However, Pellets of suitable grade are used as feed material for production of Sponge Iron through the gas-based route. There have been no reports of shortage of pellets for the Sponge Iron Industry.

Board of Management of SAIL

1922. SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE : Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) the total number of Directors on the Board of Management of the Steel Authority of India;

(b) whether there is any Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes Member on the Board;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) the number of traders appointed by the Steel Authority of India Limited on all India basis for disposal of steel material of their stockyard; and

(e) whether there is any Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes members as traders ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SANTOSH MOHAN DEV) : (a) The existing stength of the Board of Directors is 15.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) There are no stipulations regarding mandatery representation of SC/STs on the Boards of Directors of Public Sector Undertakings. However, there do exist other forums for protection and promotion of the interests of the SC/ST employees, and the Public Sector Undertakings have to ensure that they comply to all the Government instructions in these matters, which are applicable to them.

(d) In terms of erstwhile JPC distribution guidelines and thereafter as per marketing policy of SAIL, effective from July, 1992. there is no scheme for appointment of traders for sale of Mild Steel items.

(e) Does not arise.

Affect of Imported Steel on Indian Steel Companies

1923. SHRI SHIV PRATAP MISHRA : Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that under liberalised economy the imported steel would seriously affect the Indian Steel Companies as well as the foreign exchange of the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and what steps Government propose to take so that the domestic producers should not be affected ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SANTOSH MOHAN DEV) : (a) and (b) Steel imports have not shown an increasing trend so far as a result of various economic and trade policy measures taken by Government. During the first six months of 1992-93, 0.51 million tonnes (provisional) of steel were imported as compared with average annual steel imports of 1.45 million during the past five years.